watershed basis on the recommendation of a high level Technical Committee. Since all the development activities will be concentrated in the selected watershed, it is expected that there would be much improvement in the impact of the programme.

Replacement of Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act

2926. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Finance Minister, in his Budget speech of 1998-99 had given assurance to the Parliament to enact the Model Co-operative Act to replace the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 1984 ;

(b) why Government are not coming forward to fulfil its own commitment; and

(c) whether the Bill be placed in the current Session of the Parliament and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 1998-99, stated that as part of a concerted programme to revitalise the cooperative sector, the Government would shortly bring forward a Model Cooperative Law to replace the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984.

(b) and (c) Legislative proposal for replacing the existing Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 had been firmed up and the Cabinet had also approved it but due to dissolution of 12th Lok Sabha, the Bill could not be introduced in the Parliament. Now the Bill is being processed afresh for approval of the Cabinet. Viewing the statutory/procedural requirements involved, it may not be possible to introduce the Bill during the current Session of Parliament. However, the Bill would be introduced in the Parliament, soon after procedural requirements are completed.

Agricultural Research Institutes in Tamil Nadu

2927. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) how many Agricultural Research Institutes are functioning in Tamil Nadu;